

Abstract

The invention provides a method and apparatus for transmitting a message from a sender to an intended recipient. The method includes encrypting a message using a symmetric key, sending the encrypted message to an intended recipient without the symmetric key and providing the symmetric key to a third party. If the intended recipient signs and returns to the third party a receipt for the message, the method includes transferring, by the third party, the receipt to the sender and providing the symmetric key to the intended recipient.

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